

## Key Questions for Charter Schools Considering the Special Education Cooperative Model

	Key Questions for Consideration
<b>Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who will join the cooperative?</li> <li>• What qualifications will members need to become members?</li> <li>• Will members pay dues?</li> <li>• Will members share costs?</li> <li>• Will there be a member contract?</li> <li>• Will members need to provide any documentation (e.g., financial)?</li> <li>• Do members need to be Local Education Agencies?</li> <li>• What rules will members need to follow? For example, will members need to maintain a level of participation?</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the cooperative provide members with professional development?</li> <li>• What type of professional development will be offered (e.g., legal, best practices)?</li> <li>• How will members communicate (e.g., meetings, newsletters, listservs)?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative offer direct services to member school staff (e.g., IEP support)?</li> <li>• If yes, what type of direct services will be offered?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative identify or broker service providers?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative hire service providers to provide direct services to students in member schools?</li> <li>• Are there other benefits the cooperative will offer?</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who will run the operations of the cooperatives? Members? Executive directors? Other?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative hire staff (e.g., executive director, administrative assistant)?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative hire specialists (e.g., occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech therapist)?</li> <li>• If staff are hired, how will staff be managed or held accountable for their work?</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are sources of start-up funding available?</li> <li>• How will the cooperative be funded? Start-up? Sustained?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative be funded by membership dues? At what level will the membership dues be set? Will there be differences in dues based on the size of the schools?</li> <li>• Will members share costs?</li> <li>• How will the cooperative use special education funding?</li> <li>• Will the cooperative need additional funding sources (e.g., grants, foundations)? If yes, how will the cooperative identify and pursue this funding (e.g., members, executive director)?</li> </ul>